

Solicitation Information August 27, 2013

RFP# 7497394

TITLE: Consultant Support Services for the Performance of Due Diligence Activities related to the South County Groundwater Protection and Acquisition Program

Submission Deadline: Wednesday September 25, 2013 at 11:00 am (Eastern time)

Questions concerning this solicitation may be e-mailed to the Division of Purchases at questions@purchasing.ri.gov no later than 9/10/2013 @ 4:00 pm (ET). Questions should be submitted in a *Microsoft Word attachment*. Please reference the RFP # on all correspondence. Questions received, if any, will be posted on the Internet as an addendum to this solicitation. It is the responsibility of all interested parties to download this information.

SURETY REQUIRED: NO

BOND REQUIRED: NO

Thomas Bovis Interdepartmental Project Manager

Vendors must register on-line at the State Purchasing Website at www.purchasing.ri.gov

Note to Vendors:

Offers received without the entire completed four-page RIVP Generated Bidder Certification Form attached may result in disqualification.

THIS PAGE IS NOT A BIDDER CERTIFICATION FORM

1.1) INTRODUCTION

The Rhode Island Department of Administration/Division of Purchases, on behalf of the Rhode Island Water Resources Board (WRB), requests proposals from consultants or teams of consultants to complete certain due diligence tasks associated with the potential purchase of groundwater sites in South County in accordance with the terms of this solicitation and the State's General Conditions of Purchase (available on the Internet at www.purchasing.ri.gov.)

- a) This is a Request for Proposal (RFP), not an Invitation for Bid: responses will be evaluated on the basis of the relative merits of the proposal, in addition to price; there will be no public opening and reading of responses received by the Office of Purchases pursuant to this Request, other than to name those offerors who have submitted proposals.
- b) Respondents to this solicitation are hereby advised that the respondent selected for award of a contract pursuant to this solicitation, and its affiliated or subsidiary companies (whether partially or wholly owned), shall be ineligible to bid upon any future consulting or construction solicitations which may arise from or relate to the services described in this solicitation. In addition, any sub-consultants or subcontractors engaged by the respondent selected for award of a contract who performs any services arising from this solicitation shall be ineligible to bid upon any future consulting or construction solicitations which may arise from or relate to the services described in this solicitation.

1.2) NOTIFICATIONS TO OFFERORS:

- a) Potential Respondents are advised to review all sections of this RFP carefully and to follow instructions completely, as failure to make a complete submission as described elsewhere herein may result in rejection of the proposal.
- b) In order to submit a proposal, Respondents must properly register with the State of Rhode Island. For information of registering, please see the Division's website at www.purchasing.ri.gov and under the heading "Vendor Registration Information".
- c) All proposals shall include the Respondent's FEIN or Tax Identification number as evidenced by a W9, downloadable from the Division's website at www.purchasing.ri.gov.
- d) Alternative approaches and/or methodologies to accomplish the desired or intended results of this procurement are solicited. However, proposals which depart from or materially alter the terms, requirements, or scope of work defined by this RFP will be rejected as being non-responsive.

- e) All costs associated with developing or submitting a proposal in response to this RFP, or to provide oral or written clarification of its content shall be borne by the offeror. The State assumes no responsibility for these costs.
- f) Proposals submitted in response to this solicitation shall be considered to be irrevocable for a period of not less than ninety (90) days following the opening date, and may not be withdrawn, except with the express written permission of the State Purchasing Agent.
- g) All pricing submitted by Respondents in response to this solicitation shall be considered to be firm and fixed unless otherwise indicated herein.
- h) Proposals misdirected to other than the Division of Purchases, or which are otherwise not submitted to the Division of Purchases prior to the time of opening for any cause shall be determined to be late and shall not be accepted, opened, or considered. The official time clock is located in the reception area of the Division of Purchases, 2nd floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI.
- i) In accordance with R. I. Gen. Laws § 7-1.2-1401 no foreign corporation has the right to transact business in Rhode Island until it has procured a certificate of authority so to do from the Secretary of State (401/222-3040) www.sos.ri.gov. However, this is a requirement only for successful bidder (s).
- j) Respondents are advised that all documents and materials submitted to the Division of Purchases for consideration in response to this solicitation shall be considered to be public records, as defined in Title 38 Chapter 2 of the Rhode Island General Laws.
- k) Respondents should be aware of all applicable MBE requirements, as set forth in R. I. Gen. Law § 37-14.1-1, *et seq*. The State's goal is for a minimum ten per cent (10%) participation by MBE's in all State procurements. For further information, contact the State MBE Administrator at (401) 574-8253 or charles.newton@doa.ri.gov, Visit the website http://www.mbe.ri.gov/
- 1) Interested parties are instructed to peruse the Division of Purchases web site on a regular basis, as additional information relating to this solicitation may be released in the form of an addendum to this RFP.
- m) Equal Employment Opportunity-R. I. Gen. Laws § 28-5.1 Declaration of Policy. (a) Equal opportunity and affirmative action toward its achievement is the policy of all units of Rhode Island state government, including all public and quasi-public agencies, commissions, boards and authorities, and in the classified, unclassified, and non-classified services of state employment. This policy applies in all areas where the state dollar is spent, in employment, public service, grants and financial assistance, and in state licensing and regulation. For further information, contact the Rhode Island Equal Employment Opportunity Office, at 222-3090 or via e-mail raymondl@gw.doa.state.ri.us

- n) Subcontractors are permitted for this project, provided that the identity of the proposed subcontractor(s) and scope of the subcontractor's services are clearly stated in the Respondent's proposal.
- o) Questions concerning this solicitation may be e-mailed to the Division of Purchases in accordance with the terms and conditions expressed on the cover page of this solicitation. All questions received by the Division of Purchases shall be posted on the Division of Purchases' website as an addendum to this solicitation. It is the responsibility of all interested parties to monitor the Division of Purchases' website for updated solicitation information and addenda.
- p) The Division of Purchases reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals submitted in response to this solicitation, to waive minor irregularities, or to negotiate with any Respondents, as necessary, to serve the best interests of the State.

NOTICE:

THERE MAY BE ADDITIONAL ADDENDA TO THIS RFP AT ANY TIME BEFORE THE OPENING DATE AND TIME.

THE DIVISION OF PURCHASAES WILL NOT BE NOTIFYING BY MAIL OF ANY SUCH ADDENDA.

IT IS THE **VENDOR'S RESPONSIBILITY** TO *CHECK* AND *DOWNLOAD* ANY AND ALL ADDENDA.

AN ADDENDUM TO A BID/RFP IS L ISTED AS THE BID NUMBER WITH AN "A" AND THE NUMBER OF THE ADDENDUM FOLLOWING; FOR EXAMPLE, **3025A1** INDICATES ADDENDUM #1 HAS BEEN ISSUED FOR BID 3025. **3025A2** INDICATES ADDENDUM #2 HAS BEEN ISSUED.

YOU MUST CLICK ON ALL OF THESE LISTINGS TO GET THE COMPLETE PACKAGE.

2.1) BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Background:

The Water Resources Board (WRB) manages approximately \$7 million dollars of bond proceeds from the 2000 and 2004 bond issuances for the South County Groundwater Protection and Acquisition Program. This program was conceived to acquire new wellhead sources as well as protect existing wellhead sources throughout South County based on sites that the United States Geological Survey (USGS) had identified throughout the 1970's and 1980's. Due to several factors over the past 10 years, only one property in proximity to one of the original USGS sites has been acquired through the program. The WRB is renewing its commitment to the Towns of South County to identify and acquire properties for the purposes of groundwater protection and acquisition. Applications and ranking forms were recently sent out to Towns to facilitate these acquisitions. The WRB has received, reviewed and ranked the applications and upon determining that nineteen warranted further investigation, obtained initial approval from the Rhode Island State Properties Committee to enter into preliminary negotiations to acquire said properties.

Purpose:

The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to secure the services of civil/environmental engineering and technical firms to provide assistance to the Rhode Island Water Resources Board (WRB) in completing due diligence associated with potential property acquisitions. Proposals are being sought for project management involving multi-disciplinary responsibilities that may entail surveying, hydrological, civil/environmental engineering including well installation, pump test and water quantity /quality analysis as well as site investigations/contaminant assessment and technical reviews.

Currently \$3.5 million in bond funds has been issued and authorized. It is the Board's intention to utilize a portion of such to cover the cost of various minimal due diligence tasks to attain an acceptable level of assurance to purchase certain properties. A list of the services preliminarily thought to be required for the new source and protection projects respectively is attached. Cost information for each service on each property shall be provided.

There are two classifications of properties, **new well sites** and **groundwater protection sites**. The services preliminarily thought to be required to evaluate **new well site** properties are hydrologist site and document review, small monitoring well test, full monitoring well test, environmental assessment, survey work including compliance with subdivision requirements and wetlands identification. Some property locations have had existing engineering studies and/or survey work completed. The services preliminarily thought to be required to evaluate **protection site** properties are environmental assessment and survey work including compliance with subdivision requirements and wetlands identification.

Structure:

One contract will be awarded for general project management and completion of required due diligence tasks. The selected consultant shall provide on the attached form costs associated with the services that the WRB has determined as necessary to minimally provide an acceptable level of assurance to purchase said properties. The selected consultant shall either complete the required tasks or sub contract same bearing in mind that the WRB reserves the right to award the work on project and individual task items either in whole or in part up to 20% of the proposed fee(s). Bids will be evaluated based on technical capabilities, experience and cost evaluation as detailed in the evaluation criteria of this RFP.

Respondents shall employ at all times professional and support personnel with requisite expertise and in adequate numbers to assure the complete and timely delivery of necessary services. The inability of a respondent to perform work as required will be cause for termination of the contract.

Respondents shall directly employ at least one Rhode Island Professional Engineer (PE) and Registered Land surveyor (RLS) who shall have been licensed a minimum of three years. The firm shall be actively engaged in the fields of either civil/environmental engineering or a discipline determined to be technically equivalent. The consultant shall be responsible for a schedule of deliverables, draft reports and final reports. All findings and recommendations in the reports must be technically justified and must be able to withstand the collective scrutiny of the Board, the State Properties Committee, regulatory agencies and the public.

Period of Contract:

It is contemplated that the contract will be in force for a twenty four (24) month period.

3.1) Scope of Work

Project Manager

The WRB will name a project manager that will be responsible for managing the contract on daily basis. Project assignments may be made for individual sites or tasks or groups of sites or tasks. The project manager shall authorize all work, budgets and payments and coordinate activities with WRB staff

Responsibilities of selected vendor

The State will consider the selected vendor's Project Manager to be the sole point of contact with regard to contractual matters, including payment of any and all subcontractor charges resulting from the contract. If any part of the work is to be subcontracted, the prime contractor shall provide a complete description of work subcontracted and descriptive information about subcontractors' organization and capabilities. The State reserves the right to approve or disapprove any and all subcontractors. The prime contractor is solely responsible for adherence by subcontractor arrangements and shall be able to provide written reports regarding the completion of work or summarizing the review of work completed by others. The selected vendor may be requested to conduct technical reviews and oversight, and provide comments on technical reports, documents, permit applications, etc. or specific portions of these documents, as well as overseeing field work conducted by sub contractors. Therefore, it is important that the selected vendor be familiar with, at a minimum, State and Federal Drinking and Environmental water regulations and permitting standards. The selected vendor shall meet all appropriate Federal and State requirements on contracts and cost reimbursements and shall not assign and/or transfer any interest or responsibility in the contract without the prior written consent of the State.

Services Needed

1. Project Management

The selected consultant shall appoint a project manager to provide detailed reports regarding progress of individual tasks on specific properties on a weekly basis as well as general summary written reports on all aspects of the project on a monthly basis to a WRB project manager.

2. Hydrologist site and document review

Respondents shall be able to provide a comprehensive interpretation of hydrogeologic conditions/properties and a conceptual understanding of both surface and groundwater flow in order to be able to assess quantity of water capable of being produced.

3. Well installation and Pump Test

The general purpose of test drilling and pumping test is to obtain information on the hydrologic characteristics and availability of ground water on the subject properties. In particular, test wells are to be driven to determine the character, extent, and thickness of water-bearing materials underlying each site, the water transmitting characteristics of the associated aquifer, and the quality of the water. 2.5 inch test wells are projected to be installed at each new source site therefore provision of a daily rate for installation of such is required to be detailed. The respondent is responsible for the provision of all supplies needed for well drilling and is required to provide costs in the form of a day rate for the installation of a 2.5 diameter test well by driving and washing. Bid price to include all costs for furnishing, setting up, breaking down and removal of equipment as necessary to meet stated requirements as well as any additional costs incurred as a result of performing work in accordance with all applicable regulations. Furnishing, installing and removing (if desired) heavy duty casing, provision of water, drilling, material sampling at five foot intervals, creation of driller's log, measurement of water loss, screening (size of well screen to be determined by the contractor from sieve analysis of samples collected), development, pump test and cleaning/restoring of site shall be included in the bid.

Test wells drilled under these specifications are for the purpose of obtaining information on quantity and quality. The respondent shall have the ability, either directly or through the use of a subcontractor, to install borings and construct and develop wells both in overburden material and in bedrock and shall be responsible for arranging for the identification and marking of the location of utility lines in the area to be drilled.

4. Environmental Assessment and Review

The respondent shall show professional and staffing capabilities for assessment and project management activities to generate information on the presence of sensitive or multiple receptors which may limit site availability for water supply withdrawal. Specifically, the respondent shall provide the following:

- A. A 1:6000 scale or larger map depicting each well site and the area within a one half mile radius with the following information:
 - 1. Current land uses
 - 2. Known water withdrawals
 - 3. Zoning
 - 4. Lakes, ponds, streams and wetlands within a 1000 foot radius of the well site
 - 5. Sensitive receptors existing within 1000 feet of the site
 - 5.1. Recreational areas (parks or management areas, public beaches, boat ramps)
 - 5.2. Amphibian breeding pools
 - 5.3. Stocked trout streams
 - 5.4. Cold water fisheries resource
 - 5.5. Any other critical resources
 - 5.6. Public and private wells
- B. Listings and locations of the following potential threats within one-half mile of proposed well sites:
 - 1. Identified CIRCLAS sites

- 2. Combined Sewer Overflows or Sanitary Sewer Overflows
- 3. Landfills
- 4. Salt Storage Facilities
- 5. DPW Garages
- 6. Agricultural Uses
- 7. Automobile graveyards and junkyards
- 8. Industrial Parks/Plants
- 9. Petroleum, Gas Station and oil bulk stations and terminals
- C. listings and locations of the following discharges and or withdrawals within the watershed of the proposed new source:
 - 1. RIPDES or NPDES permitted facilities
 - 2. Public and known private water withdrawals
 - 3. Impoundments

5. Survey/ Subdivision and Wetlands

Class I Survey by Rhode Island Standards on pre-determined sites:

- a. Identifies the parcel's wetland areas and associated buffers and setbacks (from existing sources of information);
- b. Identifies the parcel's topographic features (from existing sources of information);
- c. Identifies the parcel's soil characteristics (from existing sources of information).
- d. Conforms to the town's zoning ordinance and subdivision ordinance;
- e. Shows lot lines and areas for the subdivision parcels. Assume that there will be at least one subdivision on each parcel that will require Town approval.
- f. Produce legal metes and bounds descriptions of property, easements, and subdivided parcels.
- g. Produce five (5) sets of stamped survey plans and a digital copy for WRB records.
- h. Respondent shall provide all consulting services, labor, materials, equipment, supplies, vehicles, facilities and all other items (fees) necessary to complete the Project in an expeditious manner and consistent with the Project objectives.
- i. WRB project manager will coordinate with the vendor to establish a timeline to produce material for each parcel. Initial survey, yield plan, and metes & bounds description products shall then be produced in accord with the agreed upon schedule. Adjustments may be made to the schedule based on interaction with Town officials, property owners, and other extenuating circumstances that the WRB will not unreasonably deny.

Additional /Innovative techniques and Suppliers

The aforementioned list of services is intended to be a basic listing of tasks the WRB anticipates being needed to complete an assessment of each property. It is not intended to be all-inclusive. The WRB reserves the right to utilize its respondents to complete tasks not listed. This can include additional tasks, equipment or subcontractors. The WRB will require documentation from the prime contractor that costs for these tasks are competitive.

PROPOSAL STRUCTURE

- 1. Each proposer must submit one original and five copies of the firm's proposal clearly addressing all of the requirements outlined herein and for any additional services the proposer feels are necessary or required to deliver the project in a complete, timely and quality fashion.
- 2. Respondents to this RFP shall follow the proposal format as outlined in this section. Failure to adhere to the prescribed format may result in finding the proposal non-responsive. Exceptions to any part of this RFP shall be fully noted and explained in the respondent's cover letter.
- 3. A cover letter providing a brief history of the firm, organization, and appropriate registration numbers is required. The letter shall indicate the principal or officer of the firm who will be the primary point of contact during negotiations. The individual must have authority to negotiate all aspects of the scope of services and provisions on behalf of the firm. The cover letter transmitting the proposal must be signed by an officer authorized to bind the respondent to the terms and conditions of this RFP.
- 4. Provide at least five references of current or former clients of the firm, including the name, title and phone number of the contact person. References shall include projects that are similar to the one proposed herein. Describe the nature of the services performed, the level of complexity and any unique problems or change orders associated with the work.
- 5. Respondents must clearly state and prove they comply with all qualification criteria as defined in Proposers Qualifications section and Specific Provisions. Ambiguity will be cause for rejection.
- 6. Description of the background and experience of the personnel proposed to perform work in association with this contract. The proposal shall include resumes for all personnel proposed for performing work under this contract. Any substitution of personnel named in the proposal must have prior written approval from the RIWRB.
- 7. Each respondent shall provide a financial statement dated within the last 180 days and a reference from a primary bank. In addition, respondents shall provide a statement indicating the length of time their firm has been in business, the number and location(s) of their office(s), the approximate number of clients and the current number of full-time employees.
- 8. Any other information that is believed would be helpful in evaluating the firm's qualifications and proposal.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 1. The State is under no obligation to award, but may do so based upon the analysis of submitted proposals, subsequent interviews and negotiations with the best-qualified proposer(s). The Owner will make an award(s) as it deems such award(s) to be in the best interest of the State.
- 2. All proposals received by the submission deadline will be evaluated by the WRB. This WRB will evaluate and score each respondent on the selection criteria described in this solicitation and a formal written evaluation, with an award recommendation being provided to the State Purchasing Agent or his designee, who shall make the final award determination.
- 3. The award(s) will be made to the proposer(s) deemed most responsive and qualified based on, but not limited to, the following criteria, which will be scored as follows:
 - a. Overall Quality of the proposal and responsiveness to the request including description of each task. (20 points);
 - b. Competence and relevant experience of the organization to provide the required services (15 points);

- c. Proposer's Qualifications and relevant experience of the personnel assigned to the project. Responding firms must have a minimum of ten (10) years experience and demonstrated ability in the fields of Civil/Environmental Engineering or other acceptable technical discipline including, but not limited to identification and determination of aquifer feasibility and suitability, pump and well testing and design, optimization of well placement, coordination with regulatory agencies, watershed and wellhead protection issues, water quality regulations (15 points);
- d. Demonstration of a managerial approach inclusive of the ability to meet deadlines that will result in the successful and timely completion of the project (10 points);
- e. Allocation of staff effort to each task is acceptable and reasonable (20 points);
- f. Fee Proposal in a **separate sealed envelope**—lowest responsive cost proposal (20 points).

RESPONSES

a) Responses will be evaluated in two parts for a maximum score of 100 points. Part One is a Technical proposal (80 points max) and Part Two is a Professional Fee proposal (20 points max). Both the Technical and Professional Fee proposals are required on the due date listed on page 1 of this solicitation, they are to be submitted in **separate sealed envelopes**.

Part One – Technical Proposal Technical proposal will be evaluated on the following criteria (All Respondents must receive a minimum score of 65points on the Technical proposal, Respondents not scoring at least 65 points will not be considered for fee proposal evaluation).

Part Two - Professional Fee Proposal

Professional Fee proposal will be evaluated (if firm meets minimum of 65 points in Part One) on the following criteria (Will represent 20 points max):

- 1. The Professional Fee proposal shall be submitted in a **separate**, **sealed envelope**.
- 2. The Professional Fee proposal shall be submitted on the attached fee proposal form. The price must be provided on the attached Fee Proposal Form.
- 3. Full **20 points**. The other opened Professional Fee proposals shall be allocated points prorated in correlation to the lowest Professional Fee proposal (e.g. a bid of twice the amount of the low bid will receive 10 points). Professional Fee proposal points are determined by the following formula: x/n (y) = points awarded; whereas "x" = lowest opened bid, "n" = any bid under consideration and "y" = 20 points.

3.2) PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

a) Proposals to provide the services set forth in this solicitation must be received by the Division of Purchases on or before the date and time indicated on page one of this solicitation. Responses (a clearly labeled **original** plus five (5) copies) should be mailed or hand-delivered in a sealed envelope marked with the RFP number and "Architectural, Engineering, and Design Services for Stedman Government Center New Entrance Plaza and Paving, Tower Hill Road, Wakefield, RI".

RI Dept. of Administration Division of Purchases, 2nd floor One Capitol Hill Providence, RI 02908-5855

b) **Reminder**: Proposals misdirected to locations other than the Division of Purchases, or which are otherwise not submitted to the Division of Purchases prior to the time of opening for any cause shall be determined to be late and shall not be accepted, opened, or considered. The "official" time clock is located in the reception area of the Division of Purchases, 2nd floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI.

PROJECT COORDINATION

The owner has provided herein a description of the project's intent and initial list of broad scope of work items that are expected could change (expand or contract throughout the duration of the project). The project work is considered dynamic in nature which may result in changes to the scope. The consultant should be aware of the very real possibility of work tasks being reduced or eliminated altogether after the contract has been awarded.

INVOICING

- 1. Total invoicing for each individual element shall be based on actual time expended and contractual hourly rates.
- 2. The Consultant shall invoice no more frequently than monthly.
- 3. Hourly rates and direct costs used for invoicing these elements will be those quoted by the Consultant in their Fee Proposal, and no adjustment for changes in rates will be allowed for the duration of the project.

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FEE PROPOSAL

The attached spreadsheet must identify costs for services one through five previously detailed and will be inclusive of all costs and expenses. Projected hours for each task or sub-task have been estimated for a typical site and rates for approved direct costs or hourly rates for labor are to be inserted. Please note that provided rates are to be all inclusive i.e. have profit/markup factored in. All costs determined to be directly applicable to any task/sub task such as copying, travel, printing, etc. will be eligible for payment. The Consultant will be required to provide all documentation requested by the Owner to invoice direct costs. Only costs specifically noted in the fee proposal will be reimbursed unless prior written approval is received from Owner. Provided costs will be used for invoicing of specific work elements throughout the duration of the project if it is determined that a specific task will proceed at a specified site. **FOR ESTIMATING PURPOSES, ASSUME 8 SITES TO BE TESTED OVER A 24 MONTH PERIOD.** A not to exceed award of approximately \$300,000 based on the rates provided is envisioned. The WRB reserves the right to eliminate or reduce deliverable requirements for any task and will use the pricing provided to determine final costs to be paid for said tasks. Under no circumstances shall any hourly rates or direct costs provided in the fee proposal be increased throughout the duration of the project.

Service	Quantity	Rate	Quantity x Rate
1. Project Management -Principal (Cost/hr)	4hrs		
Kick off meeting and preliminary data review			
2. Hydrologist (Cost/hr)	12hrs		
Determination of monitoring and test well locations			
3. Well drilling/installation (Cost/day)	2 days		
Daily rate for 2.5 inch test well to include all costs for furnishing, setting up, breaking down and removal of equipment as well as furnishing, installing and removing (if desired) heavy duty casing, provision of water, drilling, material sampling at five foot intervals, creation of driller's log, measurement of water loss, screening (size of well screen to be determined by the contractor from sieve analysis of samples collected), development, pump test and cleaning/restoring of site (assume average of 65 feet) 4. Environmental (Total fee)	2 days		
Phase I Assessment	2 days		
5. Survey (Cost/day)	1day		
Class I Survey including identification of wetland areas and subdivision compliance requirements			

Grand Total (Sun	of five (5)	quantity x rate items)
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